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GEORGIA

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Professor Mary Bedell, Chair
Franklin College Faculty Senate
University of Georgia

Dear Mary,

It is my hope that you will share the contents of this letter with the Faculty Senate at its next meeting.

I am writing as a follow up to the discussion at the recent Franklin Faculty Senate meeting. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share the very significant progress that Professor Madden and her team have made in constructing a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) database of changing land use and the evolving UGA campus from the 1800s to more recent times. As I noted at the meeting, Marguerite and team will use this GIS database to create a series of “story maps” that should reveal insights into the likely lives of individuals buried at the Baldwin Hall site. Also as noted, the team has already begun to create an Athens African American “story map” that incorporates photos, a literature review, and an annotated bibliography and timeline. Marguerite hopes to use this unique database, built with the aid of the seed grant we provided, to attract external funding for Phase 2 work. In Phase 2, she plans to embellish the “story map” with additional inputs, including individual stories, photos and local history gathered in part with the aid of the community. Marguerite met with the Program Officer of the Division of Research Programs at the National Endowment for the Humanities this week to discuss possible funding for next steps, and she came away from the meeting encouraged.

At the recent Faculty Senate meeting, I reported that, judging from prior communications, the University of Texas collaborator had not yet made significant progress in preparing nuclear DNAs from the samples of Baldwin Hall remains provided to her in early 2017. Immediately following the meeting, I wrote to her again to inquire about progress. I was pleasantly surprised to receive a much more encouraging response this time. She indicated that her team is about halfway through the preparation of DNA libraries from the samples and that she hoped to finish this aspect of the work over the next two to three months. This will be followed by various tests of the integrity of the DNAs and the ability to derive useful sequence information from them. As we knew from the beginning, some of this work will be done by a Harvard colleague who has unique expertise in working with ancient DNAs (as I emphasized at the meeting, no one on our campus has this expertise). Our Texas collaborator hopes to have these analyses completed by the Fall. So, while this will take some time yet to play out, this is good news of progress on the DNAs that I hope you will share with the Senate (or if you wish, I'd be glad to attend the next meeting and make a brief report on this).

In their presentation, Professors Reitsema and German noted two other areas in which UGA had pledged to make progress: strengthening ties with the community and sharing the findings of Mr. Tom Gresham of Southeastern Archaeological Services. I can report upon conversation with Alison McCullick, UGA's Director of Community Relations, President Morehead's meetings with community leaders last April were impactful, leading to UGA's engagement with the Great Promise Partnership internship

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program that is now employing several Clarke County high school students, in addition to the enhancement of several other outreach programs. For example, just a few weeks ago, we hosted more than 100 local students for a day-long service learning opportunity associated with Ms. Charlayne Hunter-Gault's delivery of the Holmes-Hunter Lecture. You can learn more about UGA's involvement in our local community at www.uga.edu/community, a website created last spring to catalog our outreach efforts.

In regard to Mr. Gresham, I am told by University Architect Gwynne Darden that he expects it will take several more months to complete his work. When done, the Management Report will be submitted by the Office of University Architects to the State Archaeologist's Office and will, of course, be a public record.

The University has been planning to provide an update to the campus community via Columns later this spring, when Professor Madden's report is completed. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with the Franklin Senate on these ongoing efforts and as I indicated in the beginning, hope that you will share this update with the representatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David", written in a cursive style.

David Lee, PhD
Vice President for Research
Professor of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology